

**Open University of Mauritius - EducationUSA (U.S. Embassy, Port Louis)**

**Coursera - University of California Irvine**

***Emerging Trends and Technologies in the Virtual Classroom***

The Open University of Mauritius and the EducationUSA Office of the U.S Embassy, Port Louis are happy to present you with a special training program featuring a free online course based on ***Emerging Trends & Technologies in the Virtual Classroom*** and targeting pre-primary, primary and secondary levels of education.

The course is offered as a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Coursera, an online education platform, and the instructor is Melissa Loble, Associate Dean at University of California Irvine's Distance Learning Center.

"Emerging technologies are quickly gaining momentum in the field of virtual K-12 instruction. In this course we will explore how the latest trends in technology affect student learning and engagement. What innovative learning spaces and tools are available to instructors? How can instructors best utilize free and open resources to more deeply engage students in their learning? What impact can the use of emerging technologies have on student retention and performance? As a class we will discuss the possibilities and challenges of using technology in both online and blended environments." UC Irvine, Coursera.

Open University of Mauritius and EducationUSA are offering a special locally-customized program with face-to-face facilitation sessions in order to enhance and support your learning experience.

The format and content of this course will be as such:

- Course content and instruction delivered online, during 5 weeks, starting Nov 11, 2013. Please apply directly at **[www.coursera.org/course/k12virtualtrends](http://www.coursera.org/course/k12virtualtrends)**
- 6 face-to-face sessions at the Open University of Mauritius, starting 7 Nov 2013. Please apply at **[www.open.ac.mu](http://www.open.ac.mu)**

The course syllabus is as follows:

Week 1: Role of Technology in the Virtual Classroom

Week 2: Emerging Trends and Technologies: Social Learning

Week 3: Emerging Trends and Technologies: Game-based Learning & Badging

Week 4: Utilizing Open Content: From e-Books to Learning Object Repositories

Week 5: Review

The course content and instruction (through video lectures mainly) are delivered online, to be studied at your own convenience, place and pace. About 1 or 2 hours will be needed to go through the weekly videos and embedded reflective questions. An additional couple of hours per week may be needed to fully interact with the course material.

Should you wish to receive a Statement of Accomplishment from UC Irvine and Coursera, you need to complete the weekly quizzes, one assignment and a final online exam. However this is a free course and your personal investment can be as much or as little as you wish to put in.

- The 6 face-to-face sessions are scheduled at the Open University of Mauritius, Réduit, and are aimed at providing you with a support framework during your training. You will have opportunities to reflect and share your learning experiences, discuss and clarify issues, and learn together.

**Face-to-face sessions 9:30 – 11:30** at the Open University of Mauritius, Réduit

(Group 2: 13:30 -15:30, should there be a need for a second cohort)

Session 1: Thursday 07 Nov 2013 (Orientation)

Session 2: Thursday 14 Nov 2013

Session 3: Thursday 21 Nov 2013

Session 4: Thursday 28 Nov 2013

Session 5: Thursday 05 Dec 2013

Session 6: Thursday 12 Dec 2013

A Certificate of Participation from Open University and EducationUSA (U.S. Embassy, Port Louis) will be delivered to those who attend the 6 face-to-face sessions and take part in the related activities (reflection, sharing, discussions).

In order to qualify for a scholarship offered by the Open University for that special program, you will be requested in addition to submit at the end of the course an individual portfolio reflecting your learning experiences of the program and application of your new knowledge and skills to the local educational context.

#### FAQs:

**Are there any pre-requisites or recommended background for students participating in this course?**

You have to be an educator, or work in relation to education, be it at pre-primary, primary or secondary level. You could also be a technology enthusiast, who would apply these skills in an educational/training medium. We encourage that applicants for this course are comfortable with technology, and wish to learn more on the educational aspect of it.

**How much do I have to pay to enroll for this program?**

Nothing. It is completely free, but applications are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, so hurry.

**Do I need to buy anything for the course?**

No. All course materials are available online for free.

**What is Coursera?**

Coursera is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform. Many excellent universities have full courses available there for free. The courses are Bachelor-Master level courses. They are not equivalent to getting a degree, but are geared at providing university level education in specific subjects, for free, either to help students move on to university, or to help in their professional settings.

**Can I sign up for other free courses on Coursera?**

Of course. We would encourage you to use this opportunity first, to test your skills with an American online course and workload, with our help, and make the most of our facilitation. Many courses will address a topic that might not completely fit in the local context. After completion of this course, you will be better prepared for online education, and can sign up for other courses after.

**Can I complete the coursework on my own, without attending the face-to-face sessions?**

Yes you may, but you will not be part of the EducationUSA-Open University program then. You will work on the course on your own, without facilitation, and you will not qualify for the scholarship scheme with Open University of Mauritius, nor benefit from the additional resources and certificate of participation from EducationUSA and Open University.

**Can I follow the online course, without completing the coursework?**

Yes you may, as this is a free online course. Your personal investment can be as much or as little as you wish to put in. You are in charge of your own learning.

**I'm interested, but not free. Will there be other classes like this?**

Unfortunately, at this stage, it is hard for us to tell. We would encourage you, because of the innovative subject of this course, to really try to join, so your students and schools can benefit from your knowledge of technology and pedagogy.